

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 92**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68—Relative to World War II.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 14, 1998.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 68, Ayala. World War II: Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island.

This measure would recognize and commend the valor of the men and women of the United States and the Philippines who served on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island during World War II.

WHEREAS, In World War II, which began in 1939 and ended in 1945, the Philippines were allied with the United States against Japan and other Axis Powers; and

WHEREAS, Japanese troops began invading the Philippines on December 10, 1941, just days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, United States and Filipino troops defending the country moved from Manila to the Bataan Peninsula, which extends into Manila Bay from the coast of the Island of Luzon; and

WHEREAS, United States and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, held back Japanese attacks for more than three months despite being cut off from outside assistance, malnourished, and ill; and

WHEREAS, In March of 1942, General MacArthur was ordered to duty in Australia and left the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The Filipino-American defense of Bataan was hampered by many factors, including a shortage of food, ammunition, medicine, and trucks and other vehicles; and

WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, the United States and Filipino troops defending the Bataan Peninsula were forced to surrender, although some soldiers continued to resist the Japanese from nearby Corregidor Island until May 6 of that year; and

WHEREAS, The Japanese required the troops to walk approximately 80 miles to prison camps, even though American trucks were available to transport them; and

WHEREAS, That journey is known as the “Bataan Death March” because of the high number of prisoners who died; and

WHEREAS, The prisoners were then loaded onto rail cars bound for Camp O'Donnell, near Tarlac, or a camp at Cabanatuan, outside of Manila; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 1,600 Americans died in the first 40 days in Camp O'Donnell, and almost 20,000 Filipinos died in the first four months of captivity there; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 22,000, or 85 percent of all Americans taken prisoner during World War II, were taken in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 5,135 American prisoners of war died or were killed in captivity in the Philippines, a rate far higher than that suffered by the prisoners of war who were held by Germany ; and

WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands were not recaptured from the Japanese until 1945; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the valor of the men and women of the United States and the Philippines who served on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island during World War II be recognized and commended; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.